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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:TBUCHANAN
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S:JCOVEY
AF:EWMULCAHY
NSC: BSCOWCROFT
EUR/SOV:RZOOK
S/S-O: M. TANNER
---------- 100587
O 032309Z JAN 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001447 TOSEC 250177

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, SO

SUBJECT:COMMENT ON PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON ANGOLA

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR ANY DISCUSSIONS YOU MAY HAVE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS.

2. AFRICAN LEADERS WILL BE INCLINED TO READ CONCILIATORY INTENTIONS INTO RECENT SOVIET PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REMARKS IMPLYING WILLINGNESS TO "END ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION" AND TO ALLOW ANGOLAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE. THEY SHOULD BE CAUTIONED AGAINST TAKING THESE STATEMENTS
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AT FACE VALUE. WHILE MOSCOW MAY CONCEIVABLY BE POSITION-

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ING ITSELF TO ACCEPT SOME COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH GAVE MPLA LESS THAN TOTAL VICTORY IT SEEKS, EVIDENCE STILL POINTS TO AN EFFORT TO IMPOSE MPLA ON ANGOLA.

2. PRAVDA'S JANUARY 3 AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL DRAWS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVIET AID GIVEN "LAWFUL GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA" AT ITS REQUEST TO "SAFEGUARD THAT COUNTRY FROM AGGRESSIVE ENCROACHMENTS FROM OUTSIDE" AND ACTIVITIY OF "ANGOLAN SEPARATISTS" SUPPORTED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND U.S. IN DISCUSSING SOVIET ATTITUDE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON EMBASSY MOSCOW'S ANALYSIS OF RECENT SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE

AS FOLLOWS: "CONCEIVABLY THIS (COVERAGE) COULD CONSTITUTE SMALL STEP TOWARD SOVIET RECOGNITION THAT SOME SORT OF COALITION GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE THINKABLE WITHOUT ROBERTO AND SAVIMBI. IT COULD ALSO BE THAT SOVIETS SIMPLY WISH TO SADDLE OAU WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPLITTING FNLA AND UNITA TROOPS FROM THEIR LEADERS. (THE CALL FOR TERMINATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION.) WE BELIEVE IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT "FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION" EXTENDS IN SOVIETS EYES BEYOND SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WEST TO INCLUDE CUBAN COMRADES."

3. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AFRICAN LEADERS TO BE SCEPTICAL OF SOVIET USES OF MOTHERHOOD WORDS LIKE "DEMOCRACY", "WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES" AND ALLOWING "PEOPLE TO DECIDE OWN FATE." WE WISH AFRICAN LEADERS TO WORK OUT SOME COMMON AGREEMENT ON MEANING OF THESE WORDS AND PUT PRESSURE ON SOVIETS TO ACCEPT AFRICAN INTERPRETATION INSTEAD OF SEEKING TO IMPOSE THEIR OWN. INGERSOLL

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